



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/719,645	11/21/2003	Jonathan H. Fischer	46-3	1260

7590 07/25/2006
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
Suite 205
1300 Post Road
Fairfield, CT 06824

EXAMINER

RODRIGUEZ, GLENDA P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2627	

DATE MAILED: 07/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/719,645

Applicant(s)

FISCHER ET AL.

Examiner

Glenda P. Rodriguez

Art Unit

2627

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 14-20 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>5/18/06</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1, 7, 8 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Luo (US Patent No. 6, 111, 467).

Regarding Claim 1, Luo teaches a sample and hold circuit having an input and an output, comprising:

At least one capacitive element for retaining a charge, said at least one capacitive element connected to a node between said input and said output (See Element C1 in Fig. 1);

At least one input switch for selectively connecting said at least one capacitive element to said input (See Fig. 1, Element S1);

At least one output switch for selectively connecting said at least one capacitive element to said output (See Fig. 1, Element S3);

And an amplifier connected to said node, wherein said amplifier has an offset voltage and wherein a voltage drop across at least one of said input and output switches is limited to said offset voltage (See Fig. 1, Element 11 and Col. 3, L. 50-64, wherein it teaches the amplifier having a reference or offset voltage in

which it prevents that the voltage drop in the circuit will not be greater than the offset voltage).

Method claim (8) is drawn to the method of using the corresponding apparatus claimed in claim (1). Therefore method claim (8) correspond to apparatus claim (1) and is rejected for the same reasons of anticipation as used above.

Regarding Claims 7 and 13, Luo teaches all the limitations of Claim 1 and 8, respectively. Luo further teaches that wherein limiting a voltage drop across at least one of said input and output switches reduces a leakage of said sample and hold circuit (It is inherent that because the voltage drop cannot be greater than the voltage offset, hence it reduces the leakage effect in the circuit by maintaining the voltage offset during the operation of the circuit.).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 3, 4 and 10, 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luo in view of Beauducel et al (US Patent No. 4, 352, 070).

Regarding Claims 3 and 10, Luo teaches all the limitations of Claims 1 and 8. However, Luo does not explicitly teach wherein at least one of said input and output switches has a leakage effect represented by a resistor in parallel with said input or output switch and a voltage drop across said resistor is limited to said offset voltage. Beauducel et al. does teach a resistor placed in parallel as disclosed in the sample and hold circuit of Fig. 4, Resistor R₁. It would have been

Art Unit: 2627

obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify Luo's invention with the teaching of Beauducel et al. in order to provide a passive compensation to the circuit (Col. 1, L. 65-67 of Beauducel et al.).

Regarding Claims 4 and 11, Luo teaches all the limitations of Claims 1 and 8. However, Luo does not explicitly teach wherein further comprising at least two switches associated with at least one of said input and output switches, wherein said at least two switches selectively connect at least one of said input and output switches to an output of said amplifier in a hold mode or standard voltages in a write mode to reduce leakage effects due to parasitic diodes in said at least one of said input and output switches. Beauducel et al. teaches two switches found between the input and output nodes in order to hold a voltage amount (See Col. 3, L. 1-20 of Beauducel et al.). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify Luo's invention with the teaching of Beauducel et al. in order to provide a passive compensation to the circuit (Col. 1, L. 65-67 of Beauducel et al.).

5. Claims 6 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luo in view of Mills et al. (US Patent No. 5, 172, 117). Luo teach all the limitations of Claims 1 and 8, respectively. However, Luo does not explicitly teach wherein the hold time is 200 microseconds. Mills et al. teaches a sample and hold circuit in which its hold time is 200 microseconds (Col. 4, L. 35-40 of Mills et al.). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify Luo's invention with the teaching of Mills et al. in order to acquire a precise data acquisition (Col. 2, L. 45-50 of Mills et al.).

6. Claims 2, 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Luo in view of Sandusky et al. (US Patent No. 5, 825, 571).

Regarding Claims 2, 5 and 9, Luo teach the limitations of Claims 1 and 8, respectively. However, Luo does not explicitly teach wherein the sample and hold circuit is for a disc drive. Sandusky et al. teaches a sample and hold circuit for a preamplifier in a disk drive apparatus (Col. 6, L. 6-24). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to modify Luo's invention with the teaching of Sandusky et al. in order to inhibit AC transients (See Abstract Sandusky et al.).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 14-20 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the primary reason for allowance is the inclusion of the limitation wherein an amplifier connected to the node has an offset voltage and wherein a voltage drop across at least one of said input and output switches is limited to the offset voltage.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Glenda P. Rodriguez whose telephone number is (571) 272-7561. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday: 7:00-5:00; alternate Friday.


Art Unit: 2627

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wayne Young can be reached on (571) 272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



gpr
07/19/06.



WAYNE YOUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER